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(SEE BULLETIN NO. 3) FOSCO MARAINI FROM MONKMEYER

TIBET'S HATMAKERS OUTDO EVEN THE MILLINERS OF PARIS

Bulletin No. 1, April 7, 1952

Pageantry Marks Easter in Jerusalem

TO Jerusalem, Holy City of Christian, Jew, and Moslem, Easter pageantry attracts visitors of many faiths. Jerusalem's celebration of the Resurrection at the scenes of Christ's Passion and death is a truly international event.

The Eastertide visitor may, if he wishes, attend services all day long for nearly two weeks in this ancient walled city of temples and mosques, whose history extends through all recorded time.

Palm Sunday Procession Follows Holy Route

First come the Jewish Passover and Roman Catholic Easter rites. Following these are the celebrations of the Abyssinians, Armenians, Copts, Greek Orthodox, and Syrians.

The Palm Sunday procession from Bethphage to Jerusalem has long been the first big event of Holy Week. The long line of reverent Christians follows the route that Jesus rode—over the slopes of the Mount of Olives, past the Garden of Gethsemane (illustration, inside cover), and through St. Stephen's Gate to St. Anne's convent.

A short distance south of St. Stephen's Gate rises the Golden Gate through which Christ is believed to have made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In 1530 the Turks (who held the city from 1517 until Lord Allenby took it for the Allies in 1917) closed the Golden Gate. Local legend says this was to keep Christians from entering the Temple area to which it leads. The present Golden Gate shows evidence of having been built in the reign of Justinian, sixth-century Byzantine emperor.

On Maundy Thursday, according to an old tradition, Armenian and Greek priests don richly decorated vestments for Washing-of-the-Feet ceremonies. This commemorates the Last Supper. The Greek service is held in the morning in the courtyard of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (illustration, next page).

Flags Fly at Half-Mast

The Armenian ritual follows in the afternoon, in the Cathedral of St. James. In dazzling garments of silk, brocade, and silver, the priests, representing Christ's Disciples, go before the kneeling patriarch (bishop), each to have his feet washed, wiped, and anointed with oil.

On Good Friday the various consulates lower their flags to half-mast and pilgrims retrace the Way of the Cross to Calvary from the site of the palace where Pilate ratified the death sentence of Jesus. Although the building (on the north of the Temple area) was destroyed in 70 A.D. when Hadrian besieged Jerusalem, the site is marked by two chapels. One of them, the Chapel of the Flagellation, marks the site of the hall in the palace where Jesus was scourged and crowned with thorns.

On Saturday the ceremony of the Holy Fire is performed in the Chapel of the Holy Sepulcher. A cracked marble slab hides the rock on which the body of Jesus is said to have lain from sunset on Friday to sunrise on

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AMERICAN COLONY PHOTOGRAPHERS

CYPRESS TREES REPEAT THE SKYWARD PATTERN OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S DOMES AND SHADE THE FRANCISCAN BASILICA ON OLIVET'S LOWER SLOPE

Just outside the walls of Jerusalem (Bulletin No. 1) rises the Mount of Olives, where Judas betrayed Christ. Modern Christians have built churches on the slopes of this Judean hill over which pilgrims pass in pageantry on Palm Sunday. Through the Garden of Gethsemane and across the Kidron Valley they march to St. Stephen's Gate, and thence to the courtyard of St. Anne's convent inside the walls of the ancient city.

Scotland's Isle of Skye to Hold "Reunion"

THE Isle of Skye, largest of the Inner Hebrides group off Scotland's west coast, is preparing for its annual "family reunion" of former residents or their descendants who return from as far away as New South Wales and California.

It will be a week-long gathering of MacLeods and MacDonalds and others with good Highland names. There will be Scottish games and the piping will do honor to the MacCrimmons—among the most revered of bagpipers, hereditary pipers to the MacLeods of Dunvegan. There have been no MacCrimmons to pipe for the MacLeods for centuries, but they are commemorated in the great pibroch—or tune for the pipes—"The Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon," a piper killed in the 1746 uprisings.

Fairy Flag Saved MacLeods

Welcoming the MacLeods at Skye Week is Flora, Mrs. MacLeod of MacLeod, the only woman chief of a Highland clan. Mrs. MacLeod occupies the traditional home of her family, Dunvegan Castle, said to be the oldest inhabited castle in Scotland.

In the castle, a magnet for visitors, is kept the famous Fairy Flag. Tradition says that upon two occasions the flag was unfurled when battle was going against the MacLeods, and both times the enemy was routed and the clan saved.

The first name of the lady chieftain recalls another famous Flora, who is buried on Skye. It was Flora MacDonald who, after the disastrous defeat of the Stuart forces at the Battle of Culloden, on the mainland in 1746, disguised Prince Charles Edward—Bonnie Prince Charlie, the "Young Pretender"—as her maid and took him "over the sea to Skye" to escape the British forces.

Flora MacDonald's grave, surmounted by a Celtic cross, is in the burial ground at Kilmuir, on high ground above the ruined castle of Duntulm, ancestral home of the MacDonalds. The grave is visited by almost all who come to Skye.

Population Dwindled to 8,000

Skye is a land of Gaelic talk and Gaelic names that are hard for English tongues; of that magnificent range of hills, the rugged Black Cuillin, whose highest point is Sgurr Alasdair, 3,310 feet, and whose rocky peaks test mountain climbers used to much higher altitudes.

It is also an island of some 8,000 population, as compared with more than 20,000 a century ago. It is an island that stretches 48½ miles from southeast to northwest. Its shore line is so irregular, indented by arms of the sea, or "lochs," that no part of the land is more than five miles from salt water.

The lochs, with their rugged and rocky, sometimes green, shores, add greatly to the beauty of Skye. They are known by such names as Snizort and Dunvegan, Bracadale, Scavaig and Eishort, Sligachan and Slapin.

Skye is an island where much of the farming is done by "crofters,"

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Sunday. From small windows on two sides fire blazes forth. Many pilgrims believe it comes from heaven. Thousands of spectators thrust candles into the flames, hoping to secure some of the sacred fire.

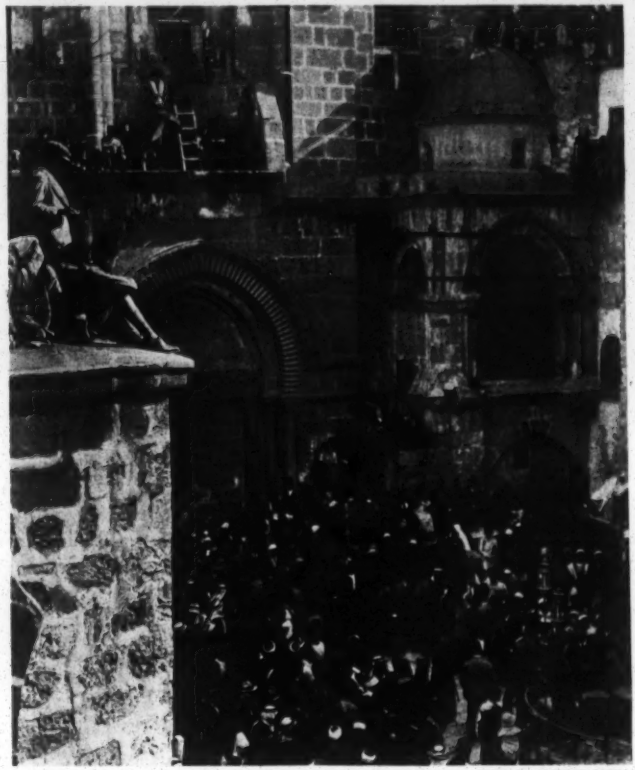
On Easter Eve, under a tent on the roof of St. Helena's Chapel, the Abyssinians parade. To the rhythm of tom-toms, they re-enact the traditional search for the body of Christ.

On Easter Sunday, religious services climax the succession of Holy Week ceremonies with the joyous observance of the Resurrection feast.

NOTE: Jerusalem is shown on the National Geographic Society's maps of Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization, and Asia and Adjacent Areas. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "Home to the Holy Land," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1950; "An Archeologist Looks at Palestine," December, 1947; "Palestine Today," October, 1946; "American Fighters Visit Bible Lands," March, 1946; "Bombs Over Bible Lands," August, 1941; and "Bedouin Life in Bible Lands," January, 1937. *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930–1945; and $2.00, 1912–1929. Earlier issues, when still in print, at varied prices.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 11, 1952, "Israel Adds Marble to Its Export List"; "Jordan Administers 'Arab Palestine'," January 22, 1951; and "Land and Water Problems Vex Israeli and Arab," November 19, 1951.



MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

EVERY NICHE AND LEDGE HOLDS A SPELLBOUND SPECTATOR AT THE MAUNDY THURSDAY RITES

In the courtyard of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Moslem headgear seen among the crowd indicates a broad human interest in the Christians' Holy Week ceremony of the washing of feet.

Communists Cope with Famine in Tibet

SINCE Chinese communists conquered Tibet last summer, less information than usual has leaked to the outside world from the central Asian land of mystery. Now comes word that a famine is raging, set in motion by the invading army's seizure of food supplies.

Tibet has withstood hard times before. Mongols, Chinese, Nepalese, and British conquerors have come. Each time, Tibet nursed its ancient culture, and eventually the foreigners went away. Among the frozen mountain peaks and windy valleys of the loftiest nation on earth, life has gone on much as before, unchanged by time, more fantastic than in the fictional "Shangri-La."

Isolated from the World

Gold-roofed shrines, cliff-dwelling lamas, yak tails, buttered tea—and an 1,800-mile border with India—these were the prizes of communist China's conquest of Tibet.

The strategic position of the huge province is offset partly by the sheer difficulty of reaching it. Tibet meets half-explored fringes of India and Burma along rain-soaked southern slopes of the towering Himalaya wall. To the east lies China's wild, grassy Sikang Province; to the north, beyond the forbidding Kunlun range, the broiling deserts of Sinkiang lead to Russia.

Situated thus at the very heart of central Asia, Tibet has long enjoyed aloofness buttressed by inaccessibility. For a caravan—or an army—to reach Lhasa, the capital, from western China, six months of bitter, roadless travel across glacier-guarded passes and gale-whipped plateaus are required (illustration, next page). To move on to India means many more weeks of climbing narrow mountain trails through rarified air at heights up to 16,000 feet above the sea.

Copper-burnished nomads roam unmapped plateaus far above timber line, guarding herds of sheep, goats, and the sure-footed, shaggy yaks which furnish wool and hides, meat and butter, and tails which traders have exported for Santa Claus beards. Peasants in windy fields flail barley as they chant prayers to Buddha. Silk-gowned nobles (illustration, cover) and monks in smoky red govern in mountain-circled villages and in Lhasa, the forbidden City of the Gods.

No Mining: Tibetans Fear Earth Spirits

Airfields, railroads, and highways are unknown. To build air bases in Tibet, the communists would have to maintain a sky supply line far longer and more difficult to fly than the Berlin airlift, landing among jagged mountains at levels well over 12,000 feet.

Rich minerals are believed to lie beneath the surface of this lofty kingdom; gold in great quantity, iron, copper, lead, mercury. Russian and British explorers have talked of uranium in Tibet—the material of atomic bombs. But the Tibetans, fearing the ire of earth spirits, have dug no underground mines.

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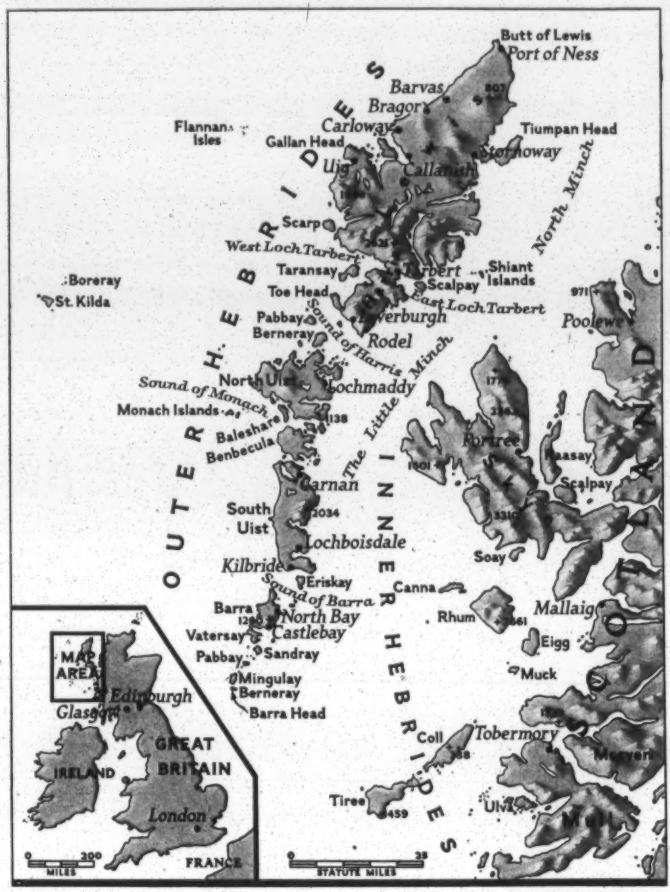
or tenants, where some produce is raised but the land is better adapted to cattle and sheep, from whose wool is woven the famous tweed of the islands. There is fishing for trout and salmon inland and for many species in the salt water.

It is a land of frequent fog and changing weather, but somehow it escapes much of the snow that falls on the Scottish mainland, separated from Skye in one place by only a quarter-mile of water. On the northwest, farther out to sea, the Outer Hebrides, a chain of five large and many small islands, serve as a windbreak for Skye and the mainland.

NOTE: The Island of Skye may be located on the Society's map of the British Isles: England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

See also, "The British Way," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1949; "Midshipmen's Cruise," June, 1948; "British Castles, History in Stone," July, 1947; and "Hunting Folk Songs in the Hebrides," February 1947.



DRAWN BY THEODORA PRICE

"THE STORM-BEAT HILLS OF SKYE" LOOM BETWEEN SCOTLAND'S MAINLAND AND THE OUTER ISLES

Skye's eastern bulge curves to nearly touch the mainland. From Kyleakin on Skye to Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland is a mere hop, skip, and jump. Portree, Skye's chief town, sends abroad the famous tweeds loomed from island sheep, and herring, cod, and salmon caught in near-by waters.

Asteroid Discovered Crossing Earth's Course

ASTRONOMERS call them asteroids, meaning "little stars." They are flying mountains whirling through the solar system—juggernauts of stone and metal weaving among the planets. Only rarely does one come near the earth. Recently, one did.

The seventh asteroid known to cut across the earth's orbit was discovered last year on photographic plates of Palomar Observatory's "Big Schmidt" sky-survey telescope (illustration, next page) and has been carefully charted.

Never Closer Than 3,500,000 Miles

The new minor planet, tentatively named 1951RA for the year and order of its discovery, measures only one to two miles across. When first seen, it was about 19,000,000 miles from earth, going away. It had been about 1,000,000 miles closer a few days before.

Following its orbit through space, the asteroid is now in the period of its greatest distance from the sun and earth. It is beginning to swing back, although its distance from earth will continue to increase until later this year.

"1951RA probably will never approach the earth more closely than 3,500,000 miles," Dr. Leland R. Cunningham of the University of California at Berkeley calculated for astronomers of the National Geographic Society-California Institute of Technology Sky Survey, now in its third year at Palomar Observatory.

"Such a close approach is not expected for many years, and cannot even be predicted at present," he said.

The asteroid's next return to the point on its orbit nearest the sun—the "perihelion" point—will take place in November. As it shoots across the earth's orbit, it will not come closer than about 100,000,000 miles. Early in 1954, it may approach as close as "several tens of millions of miles."

Collision with Earth Unlikely

"When an asteroid's orbit crosses that of the earth, it raises the question of whether a collision might be possible," Dr. Albert C. Wilson, astronomer in charge of the Sky Survey, writes.

"The likelihood is very small. If a collision did take place, the destructive effect would greatly exceed that of a hydrogen bomb."

More than 1,600 different asteroids have now been observed and recorded. Astronomers estimate there may be more than 30,000 in the solar system. The first to be discovered—on the night of January 1, 1801—was Ceres. It has a diameter of about 480 miles, and it is still the largest known.

Earth's closest miss was with an asteroid named Hermes, which shot by within 500,000 miles on October 30, 1937. It was then about twice as far off as the moon.

One theory has it that asteroids are fragments of an exploded planet

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By annexing Tibet, however, China has gained a spiritual hold over millions of Asian peoples. Here a teen-aged youth, fourteenth reincarnation of the Living Buddha, has ruled a religious order which is everything in the lives of its followers. The Dalai Lama, priest-king born in a peasant's hut, held absolute temporal power. But another boy, called the Panchen Lama, has been put forward by the communists and now rules from Lhasa.

Golden images of Lamaistic Buddhism's gods, smiling inscrutably in remote monasteries, wield tremendous influence in the Oriental world. Pilgrims spinning prayer wheels come great distances to gain merit in the spiritual world for future incarnations. Along the mountain trails are great cairns of stones, each inscribed with the mystic prayer of Buddhism, *"Om mani padme hum"*—O! the jewel in the lotus, Amen!

NOTE: Tibet is shown on the Society's map of India and Burma.

For additional information, see "A Woman Paints the Tibetans," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1949; "Across Tibet from India to China," August, 1946; and "Konka Risumgongba, Holy Mountain of the Outlaws" and "With the Devil Dancers of China and Tibet" (43 color photographs), July, 1931.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 20, 1950, "Tibet Has Kept Its Isolation for Centuries.

BROOKE DOLAN, 2D

BENEATH BEETLING MOUNTAINS, A LONELY CARAVAN PLODS ACROSS A ROCKY, WIND-SWEPT TIBETAN PLATEAU

Bulletin No. 5, April 7, 1952

Cherry Trees Lure Thousands to Washington

A PROFUSION of fragile, pink and white blossoms framing Washington's blue Tidal Basin (illustration, next page) lures throngs of spring visitors each year to the nation's capital. They come to see Washington's lavish floral display, the cherry blossoms.

Cherry blossomtime is among the nation's most popular outdoor spectacles. It inspires the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival, held this year from April 2 through April 6. For the first time in its 25-year history a night parade was scheduled with elaborate floats to represent many of the 48 states. Other events on the program included a festive ball, a water pageant, the coronation of a festival queen, and an operetta depicting the "Story of the Cherry-Blossom Seedling." The sponsors hope to put this pageant on a par with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses and the New Orleans Mardi Gras.

The Story of the Cherry

This year's celebration was something special—the 40th birthday of the cherry trees. The idea of planting them in America goes farther back than that. Fifty years ago, when few Americans had heard of the Japanese cherry, Dr. David Fairchild, a noted plant explorer, became interested in it. In 1906 he imported 25 varieties and planted them on his Maryland estate. The trees prospered and his collection proved to skeptical botanists that even the most delicate species could thrive in America.

The planting of Japanese cherry trees in a Washington park was the idea of a well-known American authority on Japanese subjects, Miss Eliza Scidmore. She made her suggestion during an afternoon's visit to Dr. Fairchild's home in 1908. The wife of the President, Mrs. William Howard Taft, was most enthusiastic about the project, as she had just returned from a trip to Japan.

The Japanese welcomed the opportunity to send 3,000 young cherry trees, as a gesture of thanks, to America for its part in helping to end the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. The City of Tokyo, capital of Japan, made the presentation in 1908 to the City of Washington, capital of the United States. The first trees turned out to be diseased and had to be destroyed. A second shipment of healthy plants followed. In a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, along a bank of the Tidal Basin, Mrs. Taft planted the first cherry tree and the wife of the Japanese ambassador planted the second.

A Spirit of Good Will

The actual giver of Washington's cherry trees was Yukio Ozaki, who was mayor of Tokyo in 1908. Mr. Ozaki did not see his gift to the American people until he visited Washington in June, 1950, on a good-will tour of the United States. The erect five-foot patriarch regretted that he had arrived too late in the season to see the trees in blossom. But he wants to return to see them "after I am 100." He is now 94 years old and in excellent health.

In the same spirit that prompted Tokyo's gift 40 years ago, Washing-

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that once followed an orbit between Mars and Jupiter. They are not stars, but dead matter shining only by reflected light from the sun. Circling the sun in the same direction as the planets, most of them never come inside the orbit of Mars.

NOTE: For further information, see "Our Universe Unfolds New Wonders," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1952; "Mapping the Unknown Universe," September, 1950; "Heavens Above," July, 1943; and "News of the Universe," July, 1939.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 31, 1952, "African Eclipse Provides Scientific Clues."

J. BAYLOR ROBERTS

PALOMAR'S CANNONLIKE BIG SCHMIDT EXPLORES THE OUTER HEAVENS

The 48-inch telescope is engaged in systematically photographing nearly the entire sky. This project, jointly sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Palomar Observatory of the California Institute of Technology, will result in the world's first "Sky Atlas."

ton has just sent 55 cuttings to Japan from the 11 trees still living of the original Tidal Basin planting. They will restore the famous cherry grove in Tokyo from which Washington's trees originally came. During the war many Tokyo cherries were cut down for firewood and timber. Surviving ones suffered from neglect and disease. The cuttings, grafted onto the starved trees, will give them a needed "face-lifting."

NOTE: The Society's Pocket Map of Central and Suburban Washington, D. C., shows the Tidal Basin area.

For additional information on Washington, D. C., see "Our Magnificent Capital City" (18 color photographs) and "Washington, Home of the Nation's Great," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1947; "Potomac, River of Destiny," July, 1945; "Wartime Washington," September, 1943; "Washington—Storehouse of Knowledge," March, 1942 (out of print; refer to your library); "Spring's Gay Bouquets Deck the Nation's Capital" (10 color photographs), July, 1938; "Washington, Home City and Show Place," June, 1937; and "Springtime Wreathes a Garland for the Nation's Capital," April, 1935.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 18, 1952, "Lafayette Park Attracts Washington Visitors"; and "Auto Here to Stay; White House Stables Go," November 26, 1951.

WALTER M. EDWARDS

JAPANESE CHERRY TREES FORM AN EXQUISITE PINK AND WHITE BORDER AT TIDAL BASIN'S EDGE

The still water of the basin reflects the loveliness of the trees. In full bloom the blossoms are a glistening white, like tiny snowflakes. Behind them the larger trees, just beginning to leaf out, form a delicate light green backdrop. The bridge and floodgates to the right control Potomac River waters which feed the Tidal Basin.